

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1962

MR. PRESIDENT:

Governor Stevenson would like you to consider the following statement to be issued publicly as soon as possible:

"The United States never had any territorial designs against Cuba, but, of course, we cannot tolerate Soviet-Cuban aggression against us or our sister Republics. So the Soviet offer to withdraw all weapons from Cuba is welcome. There is no obstacle to further assurances of our peaceful intentions towards Cuba.

"But in the meantime it is imperative that further development of the Soviet bases stop while discussion proceeds with the Secretary General of the United Nations in New York."

Governor Stevenson recommends that such a statement be made in order to prevent the Soviets from capturing the peace offensive. Governor Stevenson also recommends that we not consider the Turkish offer reported in the attached Reuters dispatch as an alternative or in addition to the Khrushchev proposal in his letter.

MVF/W